

No deal

Selectmen don't
change mind on
agreement

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A last ditch attempt to reinstate the agreement between selectmen and outgoing police chief Mark DeLuca was rejected by the board Monday night.

DeLuca's lawyer, Gerard McAuliffe, described how it was difficult for the chief to accept the idea that his time as Duxbury's police chief was at an end.

"It's hard for him to cut the bond," said McAuliffe. Despite his urging to accept the agreement, DeLuca went to another attorney, Paul Hynes, to see if he had any alternatives.

Despite the plea, selectmen stuck by their original position,

**"It's hard for him
to cut the bond."**

Gerard McAuliffe,
Mark DeLuca's attorney

The amount of time DeLuca took to sign the agreement, which McAuliffe said he had with him that evening, was the sticking point for both selectmen Elizabeth Sullivan and Jon Witten, who noted DeLuca had ample time to come to a decision, even though, as McAuliffe pointed out no specific deadline was set in the agreement.

Selectman Chris Donato also noted that no deadline for acceptance was included in the settlement that was reached on Oct. 5. Witten responded that "we had an agreement out there, we acted in good faith, it was not reciprocated."

Donato, a vocal supporter of DeLuca, stated that allegations against the chief had been revealed during the Oct. 5 meeting. "They way this thing has played out is disgusting."

McAuliffe concurred, noting that DeLuca was concerned with protecting "his good name."

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He noted he had been unable to reach DeLuca for a period of time and had even canceled a meeting with on Oct. 11. After the original agreement was reached, DeLuca spent some time on Cape Cod.

Despite rejecting the plea to reinstate the agreement, Witten urged DeLuca and Town Manager Richard MacDonald to meet again to come up with a settlement. "The board should not foreclose a new offer."

DeLuca's contract officially expired Thursday.

Under the original deal DeLuca was to receive a payment that adjusts his salary as recognition of achieving accreditation for the department. He

will also receive a payment for unused vacation time. According to his contract, DeLuca is eligible to receive that payment if he retires or resigns. His contract calls for four weeks of vacation time a year.